

U.S. Appl. No. 10/684,623  
Amendment Date: Sep. 20, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of July 20, 2004  
Docket No. 5853-319

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

These remarks are submitted in response to the final Office Action dated July 20, 2004 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the shortened statutory period for response, no fee is believed due.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his thorough examination of the application.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-12, and 26-28 have been indicated as being allowable. In paragraph one of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 18, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner, however, has indicated at paragraph 5 of the Office Action that Claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 18 to remove the reference to "detection" of a creature, the amendment being prompted by the Examiner's assessment that since the remainder of the claim deals an "indication" of a creature's presence the reference to detection could be confusing. Applicants have amended Claim 18 accordingly. As amended, Claim 18, refers to automatically controlling at least one operational parameter of a watercraft responsive to an indication of a presence of a creature.

Dependent Claims 19-25 have been made to depend from independent Claim 18 and have been amended accordingly. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, and no new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. Claims 13-15 and 17 have been

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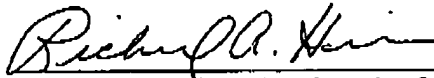
cancelled without prejudice to Applicants right to pursue prosecution in a continuing application.

Accordingly, Applicants do not address herein the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

Applicants submit that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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